

Message Text

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67

ACTION L-03

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R 141924Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4640

USUN NEW YORK 182

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR--FEB 20-MARCH 29, 1974

1. AT USG URGING, PARAGUAY AMBASSADOR TO BONN ATTENDED SESSIONS OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE DURING CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES CONCERNING INVITATION TO PRG AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK OF CONFERENCE. AMBASSADOR COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH USG REP TO CONFERENCE GEORGE ALDRICH, AND ALDRICH PROMISED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED ON PROGRESS OF WORK AND TO INDICATE WHEN IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO RETURN TO GENEVA TO HELP OUT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. ALDRICH THEREFORE REQUESTS AMEMBASSY BONN TO PROVIDE PARAGUAY AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. PLENARY -- RULES OF PROCEDURE ADOPTED MARCH 8 IN ACCEPTABLE FORM. GENERAL DEBATE COMPLETED MARCH 11.

3. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE -- HAD FIRST MEETING MARCH 13.

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CHALLENGES MADE TO CREDENTIALS OF GVN, RKG, ISRAEL, AND

PORTUGAL, BUT THESE APPEARED TO BE FOR THE RECORD AND WE BELIEVE THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT BE PRESSED TO A VOTE IN FINAL PLENARY SESSIONS, MARCH 27-29. NEVERTHELESS, TO BE SAFE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR AMBASSADOR TO BE PRESENT FOR CLOSING PLENARIES.

4. WORK OF COMMITTEES - WITH PLENARY IN SUSPENSION, WORK OF CONFERENCE BEING CARRIED ON IN 3 MAIN COMMITTEES PLUS AD HOC WEAPONS COMMITTEE. PACE OF WORK IS SLOW, AND IT IS CERTAIN TEXTS WILL NOT BE IN SHAPE FOR ADOPTION AT END OF FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE. IN FACT, ONLY A FEW ARTICLES WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THIS SESSION.

(A) COMMITTEE I -- WORK IS ON GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PROTOCOL I (ON INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS), IMPORTANT ISSUE CURRENTLY BEING DEBATED IS WHETHER TO EXTEND SCOPE OF PROTOCOL ON BASIS OF CAUSE FOR WHICH CERTAIN CONFLICTS FOUGHT, I.E. TO COVER IN SPECIAL MANNER "STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION". WE STRONGLY OPPOSING INTRODUCTION OF THIS "JUST WAR" CONCEPT, WHICH CAN ONLY DIMINISH HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION. VOTE ON ISSUE COULD OCCUR IN COMMITTEE I IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, OR IT MAY BE AVOIDED AT THIS SESSION. WHILE WE WOULD GREATLY VALUE PARAGUAY'S VOTE ON THIS POINT, WE HESITATE TO SUGGEST SPECIAL TRIP FROM BONN JUST FOR THIS. FINAL DECISION ON THIS ISSUE NOT LIKELY IN PLENARY THIS YEAR, AND KEY VOTE LIKELY TO BE IN 1975.

(B) COMMITTEE II -- WORK IN COMMITTEE, TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE, AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE UNDERWAY ON RELATIVELY NONPOLITICAL BASIS ON ARTICLES ON SICK, WOUNDED AND SHIPWRECKED.

(C) COMMITTEE III -- COMMITTEE IN PROCESS OF CONSIDERING INITIAL SERIES OF ARTICLES ON PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATION. NO KEY VOTES IN IMMEDIATE OFFING.

(D) WEAPONS COMMITTEE -- HAS HAD TWO SESSIONS OF GENERAL DEBATE ON POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS OR PROHIBITIONS ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. NO CONCRETE RESULT IS DESIRED OR EXPECTED AT THIS MEETING.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE WOULD URGE AMBASSADOR TO RETURN TO GENEVA FOR CLOSING PLENARY MEETINGS. WE WILL CABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER INFORMATION AS TIME OF FINAL PLENARY APPROACHES.
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